

TOWN OF ROYALSTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2005  
7:00 P.M.

Present: Werner Bundschuh, Chairman; Thomas Kellner, Clerk; and Andy West, Member.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bundschuh.
2. The minutes of the 5/3/05 meeting were read. Mr. Kellner made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mr. West seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
  - a) The Board is in receipt of a request from the Village School for permission to erect a tent for activities at their annual pancake breakfast and auction on 6/11/05. Mr. Kellner made a motion to allow the request contingent upon clean up and that everything is put back to pre-tent condition. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner and Mr. Bundschuh, yes, with Mr. West abstaining. Also, relating to the dance performance on 5/25/05, the Cultural Council has received a grant for this event, so will pay the full rental fee for the Town Hall. The Village School has requested a discounted rate on 5/19 and 5/20/05 instead. Mr. Kellner made a motion to accept the increase in fee of \$75 for the rental of the Town Hall on 5/25/05 and to waive the fee for the 5/19 and 5/20/05 rentals. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner and Mr. Bundschuh, yes. Mr. West abstained.
  - b) Mr. Kellner made a motion to pay Glenn Freden the \$500 owed to him for the Forestry Management Plan he did for the town since the Stewardship Program grant will not be pursued. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - c) The Friends of the Library have requested use of the upstairs of the Town Hall on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:45 p.m. from 6/1/05 through 7/27/05 for a yoga class. Mr. West made a motion to approve the request and to waive the fee. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - d) Copies of correspondence received from Senator Brewer regarding a new round of grants from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs will be forwarded to the Open Space and Conservation Committees.
  - e) Mr. Kellner made a motion to reappoint Vyto Andreliunas as the town's representative to the Montachusett Area Regional Transportation Commission. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. West noted that the term of the appointment is from 7/1/05 – 6/30/06.
4. Department Head Reports:
  - a) DPW –
    - 1) Keith Newton reported on the meeting that he, Mr. Kellner, and Helen Divoll attended today at MRPC regarding the CDBG grant that the town has applied for. If the grant is awarded, the amount of \$720,765 will be used for road work in South Royalston and work at the Town Hall to comply with ADA regulations. Criteria and the sequence of events that must occur if the grant is awarded were reviewed at the meeting.
    - 2) Mr. Newton has been working on securing connections for purchase of the new truck that was voted at town meeting. The state bid list has been a big help.
    - 3) The grader is down again due to a hydraulic condition. He is trying to get someone to come fix it.

- 4) He has been putting together information for ads for personnel to be hired after 7/1/05. Also, bid announcements for goods and services, wastewater treatment operator contract, etc. are being prepared.

Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence (continued)

- f) This year's Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on the Common at 2:00 p.m.
- g) Mr. Kellner spoke about the American Dream Downpayment Initiative Program that the town is a part of. Although the Board had requested that the town's allotment be geared toward Royalston residents, MRPC staff said that residents from all over the region would be eligible.

Department Head Reports (continued):

b) Police Department:

- 1) Mr. Kellner signed the 3rd quarter report for the Homeland Security Grant. Chief Deveneau reported that the town would receive reimbursement of \$10,000 for the thermal imaging equipment that was purchased.
- 2) The Chief has been in contact with the Worcester County House of Correction regarding securing assistance with road clean-up and other jobs throughout town.
- 3) Mr. Kellner made a motion to allow Chief Deveneau to put up a banner for the Click It or Ticket Campaign for two weeks at a time. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

5. Old Business:

- a) Open Space Committee – Aaron Ellison updated the Board on the progress of this Committee. Discussion was held on referring issues relating to Chapter 61 land to the Open Space Committee, preparation of priority maps of unclaimed parcels, the Committee's new website which is accessible through the library's site, and the its recommendation to change terms of appointments from one year to three year staggered terms. Mr. Ellison submitted receipts for expenses incurred by the Committee for copying and set up of the website. Mr. Kellner made a motion to reimburse Mr. Ellison \$131.78 for copying expenses out of the Selectmen's Miscellaneous Account. Mr. West seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
- b) Development of Cutting Plan – Mr. Kellner will speak with Glenn Freden about the next step in the process of harvesting the timber at the site on Town Dump Road.
- c) Discussion was held regarding the condition of the LaRoche property at 2 King Street. After the house burned, the rubble was left and has not been cleaned up. This is against the health code and the town's bylaw. It was the fire chief's intention to try to get the homeowner to pay for the cost of the clean up, but they have not done it. The Town could have them convey the property. Mr. West said that there would be legal work incurred beforehand and the first course is to get the property owner to clean it up. Mr. Kellner will speak with the fire chief to get more details, and will discuss the issue further at the next meeting.
- d) Mr. West will check with the Treasurer regarding the status of the property at 1 School Street.

6. New Business:

- a) Proposed Sign for Town Hall – Mr. Bundschuh said that he would like to apply to the Historic District Commission to place a sign in front of the Town Hall similar to the one at the church. Discussion was held regarding what should be included on the sign. Mr. West made a motion to make an application to the HDC for the sign. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

7. The Treasury Warrant was signed.

8. Mr. Bundschuh stated that Helen Divoll, Administrative Assistant had requested to meet with the Board in Executive Session. Mrs. Divoll said that it did not have to be in Executive Session. Discussion was held regarding several issues, including the number of hours Mrs. Divoll works. Mrs. Divoll said that she is trying to do the job, but cannot with the time constraints of only 19 hours per week. Mr. West felt that the Board should establish and agree on rules of engagement. Keith Newton spoke about Mrs. Divoll's help with projects within his department such as annual bids, typing paperwork, etc. He suggested making the position a salaried position. Mr. West said that the hours are secondary; the animosity in both directions is the issue. Mr. Bundschuh said that he is trying to fulfill the management position and work within the 19 hours. Mrs. Divoll left the meeting at 9:03 p.m. The Board continued to discuss the issue. Mr. West suggested that the priorities of the job be established and that Mrs. Divoll be involved in the process. Mr. Bundschuh said that he would speak with Mrs. Divoll in the morning to see what her intentions are and whether she plans to return to her job.

Mr. Kellner made a motion to adjourn at 9:48 p.m. Mr. West seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.